

# Organic food in South Savo



The European Agricultural Fund  
for Rural Development:  
Europe investing in rural areas



Elinkeino-, liikenne- ja ympäristökeskus  
Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment



South-Eastern Finland  
University of Applied Sciences



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI  
RURALIA INSTITUTE



Luke  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
INSTITUTE FINLAND



# South Savo region

- The focus of specialisation in South Savo region is wood, food and water
- Forest land is 87,8% of land area, certified organic collection area is 2 193 ha (2019)
- One third of the area of South Savo is inland waterways
- Livestock production is the main form of agricultural production. Number of agricultural and horticultural farms was 2 271, of which organic farms numbered 277 (2019).
- Food sector enterprises and establishments were 2 707 (2019), which is 21% of all business enterprises in our region.
- We have over 50 000 summer cottages. Summer residents counted for 42% of region's population (2019), what is clearly the highest percentage of all other regions in Finland. In 2019 there were 142 335 inhabitants.
- D.O. Saimaa trademark depicts regional origin and quality of our food products, [www.dosaimaa.fi](http://www.dosaimaa.fi)



Source: [www.stat.fi](http://www.stat.fi): Luke, South Savo Regional Council, [www.esavo.fi](http://www.esavo.fi), Arktiset Aromit ry, [www.arktisetaromit.fi](http://www.arktisetaromit.fi)



South Savo is a pioneer of organic horticultural production

## South Savo is a pioneer of organic food production: farming, development and research

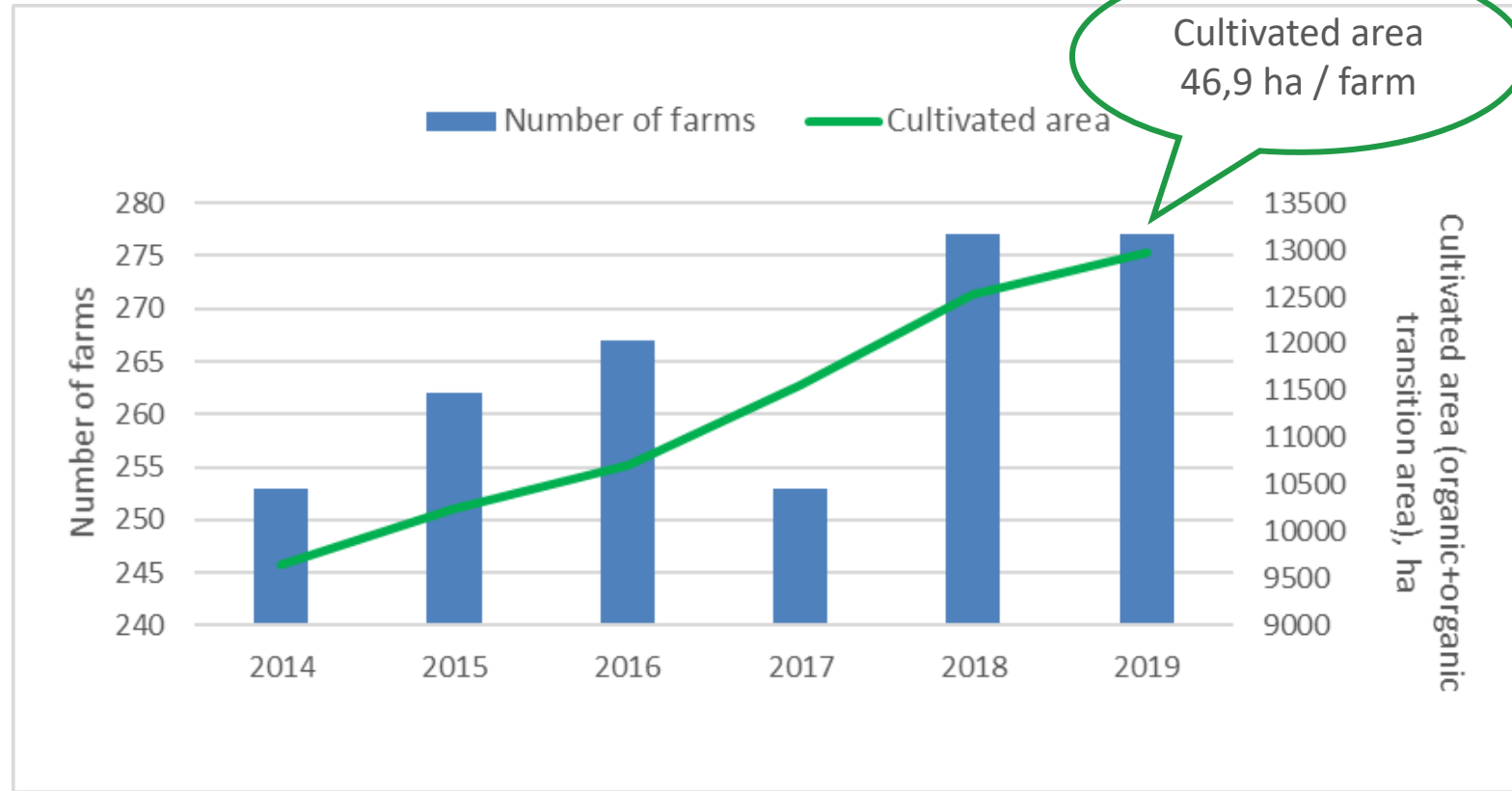
- Development and research work of organic farming started in 1980s and has continued to this day
  - In the beginning, two associations, Etelä-Savon luonnonmukaisen viljelyn yhdistys ry and Maaseudun kehittämiskeskus Partala ry, played the key role in the development of organic production
  - Later several organisations has been involved in the development, research and education of organic production
- The Finnish Organic Research Institute (FORI) was founded in the beginning of 2013 and its coordination unit is situated in Mikkeli, [www.luomuinstituutti.fi](http://www.luomuinstituutti.fi)
- Approximately 50% of the Finnish organic gabbage and onion and 20% of carrot cultivation area is in South Savo
- Other important organically cultivated crops in our area are turnip rape and strawberry
- At the end of 2019, the certified organic collection area in South Savo was 2 193 hectares

Source: The Finnish Organic Research Institute, Finnish Food Authority, Arktiset Aromit ry





# The number of organic farms and cultivated area in South Savo in 2014-2019



## In 2019 in South Savo

- Number of organic farms 277, 12,2% of all farms and 5,5% of Finnish organic farms
- Organic cultivated area 12 983 ha, 18% of whole cultivated area

Source: Finnish Food Authority



**The area under organic horticultural crops (included potato) was 156 ha, 7,7% of the area of organic horticultural crops (2 032 ha) in Finland in 2019**

# Organic horticultural production

**In 2019 the area under organic horticultural crops was 156 ha (included potato)**

**Organic production areas in South Savo (in brackets the area under organic production in Finland)**

- Cabbage 24 ha (43 ha)
  - The organic yield of white cabbage was 592 000 kg in 2019 in Finland
- Carrot 18 ha (94 ha)
  - The organic yield of carrot was 3,11 milj. kg in 2019 in Finland
- Onion 9 ha (17 ha)
  - The organic yield of onion was 388 000 kg in 2019 in Finland
- Strawberry 25 ha (208 ha)
  - The organic yield of strawberry was 406 000 kg in 2019 in Finland
- Black currant 4,8 ha (372 ha)
  - The organic yield of currants was 137 000 kg in 2019 in Finland
- Raspberry 1 ha (25 ha)
  - The organic yield of raspberry was 21 000 kg in 2019 in Finland
- Apple 3 ha (68 ha)
  - The organic yield of apple was 116 000 kg in 2019 in Finland
- Other berries and fruits 4 ha (138 ha)
- Other horticultural crops 67 ha (1 068 ha)
- Potato 8 ha (757 ha)

Source: Finnish Food Authority



# Organic crop production



In 2019 organic crop production area was 11 604 ha, 4,5% of organic crop production area of whole country

Crop	Production area, ha		Yield	The share of crop yields of whole country
	South Savo	Whole country	Kg	%
Wheat	60	6 950	20 000	0,1
Rye	126	4 731	300 000	3,0
Barley	180	7 548	260 000	1,4
Oat	523	33 408	370 000	0,5
Turnip rape	277	2 246	300 000	21,7
Pea	133	2 949	340 000	5,7
Faba bean	18	3 286	10 000	0,2
Mixed grain	871	13 496	1 660 000	8,0
Grass	8 076	162 316		
Fallow land	159	4 323		
Other crops	1 180	16 397		

Source: Finnish Food Authority



South Savo lacks  
organic pork and  
chicken  
meat production

# Organic domestic animal production

In 2019 in South Savo were 65 organic domestic animal farms

Number of organically farmed animals (in brackets the share of organically farmed animals in whole country, %)

- Dairy cows 632 (6,4)
  - In Finland, organic milk production was 73,99 milj. litres in 2019, the share of organic milk was 3,3% of total production
- Beef cattle 424 (5,5)
  - In Finland, organic beef meat production was 2,67 milj. kg in 2019, the share of organic beef meat was 3,0 % of total production
- Mother cows 1 295 (5,7)
- Other bovines 1 810 (5,3)
- Sheep and goats 1 082 (3,5)
  - In Finland, organic lamb meat production was 340 000 kg in 2019, the share of organic lamb meat was 22,8 % of total production
- Laying hens 80 (0,03)
  - In Finland, organic egg production was 5,20 milj. kg in 2019, the share of organic egg production was 7,5% of total production
- 8,2% of organic beehives are situated in South Savo
  - In Finland, number of organic beehives was 415 in 2019

Source: Finnish Food Authority

In 2019, there were 65 organic domestic animal farms in South Savo, 4,2% of all organic domestic animal farms in Finland





## Organic products in professional food services

### Organic food products are quite commonly used in professional food services in South Savo

- A total of 64 professional food service kitchens are involved in Portaat luomuun –programme, especially children's nurseries and schools
- The food service of Mikkeli City has used organic products over a ten years now
- In 2019, Susiniemi camp of Cathedral congregation of Mikkeli won the first prize in the Organic Food Finnish Championship competition in a small food service kitchens category. The share of organic products was 22%.

Source: EkoCentria / Portaat luomuun -programme





## Organic food processing

**In South Savo, organic food processing consist mainly of low-processing products, in which case all the raw material comes from own organic farm**

In 2019, low-processing organic products were manufactured in 29 companies

- Examples of low-processing products: peeling and packaging of root vegetables, processing of flakes, grits and flour, juice making without added sugar or other additives, packaging and selling of meat, herbs drying, berry freezing

**In 2019, high-processing organic food products were manufactured in 13 companies**

- Examples: organic ready meals, jam, marmalade, jelly, beer, cereal, muesli, sausage, canned meat
- Awarded organic products:
  - Sunspelt: spelt cereal was awarded as an organic product of the year in 2018 and spelt fiber supplement in 2016 in Finland
  - Vavesaari: organic rhubarb juice concentrate won the first prize in beverage category in Snacking d'Or - competition in Paris in 2018
  - Saimaa Brewing Company: organic beer 'Yövesi Dark Lager' won the third prize in The International Brewing Awards -competition in England in 2019

Source: Finnish Food Authority



# A few examples of organic farms, farmers and products in South Savo



# Organic agriculture in cooperation with farmers and companies



Kalliolan luomu, [www.kalliolanluomu.fi](http://www.kalliolanluomu.fi),  
facebook.com/kalliolanluomu  
- organic vegetables



Kukkulan Luomu, Juha Ossi,  
Puh. +358 50 3708 306  
- organic vegetables



Vertin tila, [www.vertti.fi](http://www.vertti.fi),  
facebook.com/vertintila  
- organic berries, vegetables, apples,  
cereals egg-laying hens, Hereford cattle



Lietlahden tila, [www.lietlahti.fi](http://www.lietlahti.fi)  
- organic vegetables



Harjun Maatalous Oy,  
facebook.com/HarjunLuomuOy  
- organic cereals



BioHauki Oy, [www.biohauki.fi](http://www.biohauki.fi),  
facebook.com/BioHauki  
- biogas and separated biogas  
digestates

# Organic milk, meat and processed meat products



**Juvan Muumaa Ay** produces organic milk. The cow shed of Muumaa is owned by three farms, [www.muumaa.fi](http://www.muumaa.fi)



The organic sheep farm, **Tiisanmäen lammastila**, locates on a lake of Haukivesi in Savonlinna. They produces organic lamb meat and knitting wool (TiisaWool). Their meat products have D.O.Saimaa quality and original trademark. <https://tiisanmaenlammastila.fi/>



In Pieksämäki (Jäppilä) **Hyvätuuli Highland** farm raises highland cattle, whose meat quality is guaranteed by Finnish nature. Meat products are sold to nearby restaurants, and in own farm store. Their meat products have D.O.Saimaa quality and original trademark. [www.hyvatuuli.fi](http://www.hyvatuuli.fi)



This happy charolais cattle live on the organic farm of **Luomutila Siiriäinen** in Hirvensalmi. Meat is directly sold to customers in their farm store. Their meat products have D.O.Saimaa quality and original trademark.

[facebook.com/luomutilasiiriainen](https://facebook.com/luomutilasiiriainen)



# Organic beverages, berries and honey



**Mahla Forest** produces a variety of drinkable foodstuffs, which real tastes are straight from Finnish nature. Company locates in Pieksämäki.

[www.mahlaforest.com](http://www.mahlaforest.com)



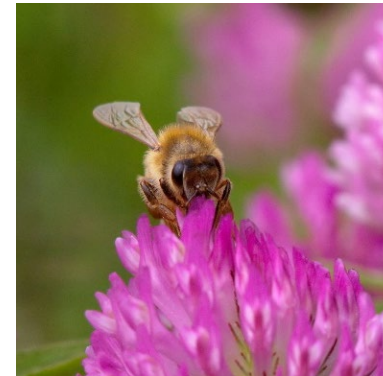
In Ristiina, organic berry and fruit farm, **Aurinkorinteen Marjat ja hunaja**, produces organic berries and fruits.

[facebook.com/aurinkorinne](https://facebook.com/aurinkorinne)



**Saimaa Brewing Company** is a nimble and constantly developing microbrewery on the shores of Lake Saimaa in Mikkeli, which makes its beers with exceptional reverence and creates some of the world's most pristine taste experiences. Saimaa-beer products have been granted D.O.Saimaa quality and original trademark.

[www.saimaabrewingco.fi](http://www.saimaabrewingco.fi)



**Kerimesi Oy** located in Kerimäki produces organic honey and honey products.

[www.kerimesi.net](http://www.kerimesi.net)

[facebook.com/Kerimesi Oy](https://facebook.com/KerimesiOy)

# Organic products of cereals



**Luomutila Muhonen's** rye loaf has long traditions and taste of pure Finnish nature. Organic rye is grown, milled into flour and the rye loaf is baked from this flour on the farm in Kerimäki.

[www.luomuhonen.fi](http://www.luomuhonen.fi)

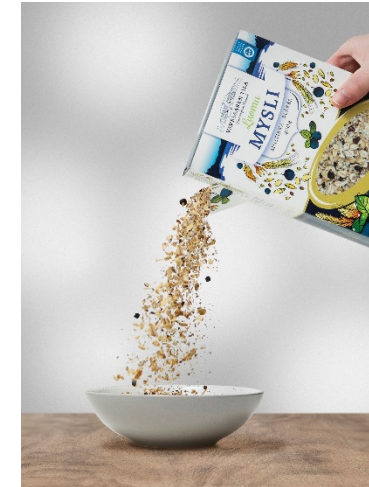
Facebook.com/luomuhonen



**SunSpelt company** from Mikkeli has specialized to product development and marketing of unrefined crop species. Their offerings includes products of spelt and Finnish, glutenfree quinoa for cooking, baking, feasting and food accompaniments.

[www.sunspelt.fi](http://www.sunspelt.fi)

Facebook.com/SunSpelt



The organic farm in Kangasniemi, **Vavesaaren Tila Oy**, manufactures organic mueslies and organic juices, jams and marmalades from organic berries and cereals. Marmalade sweets and jams have D.O.Saimaa quality and original trademark.

[www.vavesaari.fi](http://www.vavesaari.fi)





# Kruunu Herkku



- The first organic ready-made food producer in Finland
- Foods and meals are prepared by hands in a big kitchen in Juva
- Selection includes organic ready-made food products, which are manufactured by using locally grown products as much as possible
- <https://kruunukherkku.fi/>





# Ekoneum ry



- South Savo food economics development association, Ekoneum ry, was founded in 2000. The association was tasked with strengthening food chain and food economy and research and development work with member organizations and other local and national operators
- Ekoneum association is a network of multidisciplinary experts
- Member organizations: South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences (Xamk), University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), South Savo Vocational College Esedu, ProAgria South Savo
- The Finnish Organic Research Institute (FORI) with its experts strengthens competence and knowledge of organic food system of Ekoneum members. FORI was founded in 2013.
- [www.ekoneum.com](http://www.ekoneum.com)





This publication was made in *Kumppanuudella ruokasektorille vuorovaikutusta ja innovatiivisuutta – KURVI* –project (published 20.9.2021).

KURVI project is administered by Xamk with University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute and Luke as co-executers.

Execution period of KURVI is 1.10.2018–31.12.2021, and is funded by European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and ELY Center South Savo.